

come here as someone who is just a few years from retirement, with a personal interest in having a Medicare system that will last.

Let us look at the facts. The trustees of the Medicare system have said that the system will be bankrupt in 7 years if we do not do something about it: Fact 1.

Fact No. 2: The costs of the Medicare system are rising roughly 2½ times as fast as they are rising in private sector insurance. That is fact No. 2.

Fact No. 3: is that the revenue coming into the Medicare system this year for the first time is going to fall behind the money being spent by the Medicare system. That is fact No. 3.

The Republicans have no plans to cut Medicare. In fact, we want to preserve it. That is fact No. 4.

What do we want to do? Frankly, from my perspective, we want to improve Medicare. We want to have it persist. We want to give people choices, HMO's and other things. We want competition, we want efficiency, and we want a better system. That is what we are going to work for.

MEDICARE CUTS: WHY PICK ON OUR GRANDPARENTS FIRST?

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this week America celebrates the 30th anniversary of Medicare. Thirty years ago, Medicare brought to our senior population, for the first time, health security they never enjoyed before. They knew that whatever their circumstances, medical care would be available if they suffered from sickness or accident.

All that is threatened now. The majority party's budget does wage war on Medicare. It cuts \$270 billion from Medicare to finance tax breaks for the privileged few. Seniors will lose their choice of physician unless they can afford to pay more. Everybody in this place can, because they earn \$130,000 a year. Their budget will provide seniors cut-rate, substandard medical care unless they can afford to pay more. Their proposed cuts will deprive seniors of the security Medicare now provides, unless they can afford to pay more.

To curb costs, why not rein in rising insurance company premiums costs, along with hospital costs and prescription drug costs? Why pick on our grandparents first? Let us not let America backpedal into the 21st century.

TOP 10 NICKNAMES FOR LIBERAL PLAN FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, quickly, we are not out to cut Medi-

care, we are out to save it and improve it. That is the key difference.

Mr. Speaker, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ, we have the top 10 nicknames for the liberal plan for Medicare, or the lack thereof:

No. 10: The X Files Plan.

No. 9: The Medicare Plan.

No. 8: The Let-It-Go-Broke Plan.

No. 7: The Blank Page Plan.

No. 6: The Stick-Your-Head-in-the-Sand Plan.

No. 5: The We-Don't-Need-No-Stink-ing-Plan Plan.

No. 4: The Extra Top Secret "We Don't Even Know it Ourselves" Plan.

No. 3: The Change-the-Subject Plan.

No. 2: The "Bash Conservative Republicans, Ignore the Solution" Plan.

And the No. 1 nickname for the liberal plan on Medicare: The Invisible Plan.

□ 1220

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

(Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am a product of good affirmative action. Aggressive outreach programs represent good affirmative action.

Discrimination unfortunately does exist in this country. We must identify those who break antidiscrimination laws and we must punish them swiftly and severely.

Quotas, set-asides, and race norming are all related. They are close cousins. I abhor them all.

Race norming was eliminated in 1991; quotas are despised by everyone; and set-asides, which like quotas refers to proportional representation, should also be banned.

They attempt to help minorities and women but they create racial tension and they stigmatize their benefactors as products of a flawed system.

Seventy-seven percent of African-Americans oppose preferential treatment for minorities, according to a Gallup Poll.

There is nothing wrong with having goals coupled with rigorous outreach, but race and gender-based set-asides are wrong.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT CALLED IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is the first time I have spoken on the floor this year about a statement of the Speaker, but I feel compelled to do so today.

His comment yesterday that he is not convinced that Vincent Foster committed suicide was highly irresponsible.

There is no evidence to support the notion that the death of Vincent Foster was not a suicide. It is not a subject to inquiry in the hearing now under way in this Congress.

The Speaker has shot from the hip before, but when it comes to matters of life and death, there is no good excuse.

No one, especially a Government official and surely the Speaker, can be too busy to think about the ramifications of what he says before he talks.

I urge the Speaker to reflect further and withdraw his comment. We need to appeal to the better instincts of our citizenry and not to reinforce or encourage, inadvertently or not, those who try to spread paranoia or unfounded conspiracy theories for whatever purpose, political or otherwise.

HAITI

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I was approached by a group of Haitians requesting aid for their ailing nation. The group included Duly Brutus, a member of the opposition party, and also Josette Bouto, the mayor of a small town in northern Haiti. They painted a graphic picture of devastating conditions in Haiti.

The mayor had a special request of pencils and paper for the poor school in her town of Limbe. With the help of pencil and paper manufacturers, I secured the contribution of 800,000 sheets of paper and 5,500 pencils that were shipped on July 14 by the AID. The educational materials will be distributed in towns and schools in dire need of them, particularly the small town of Limbe.

This week, I learned of the arrest of Mr. Brutus. He is charged with allegedly committing arson, although many believe that because Mr. Brutus was active in opposing President Jean Paul Aristide, he may be a political prisoner. This arrest has added validity to election observers' statements that fraud and abuse in Haiti's political system is widespread. Furthermore, I have learned that the school in Limbe that was to receive the small contributions was burned to the ground.

These incidents illustrate how far from democracy Haiti is and how long a journey it must make. Although I fear an increased United States presence there, we must continue to support peace and democracy in Haiti and in our hemisphere.

IRS AND STRAIGHTENING OUT THE TAX MESS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. The IRS said our goal is to learn how taxpayers cheat so